Four political objectives
• Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
• National reconsolidation
• Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
• Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
• Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
• Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
• Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
• The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
• Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
• Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
• Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
• Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Yadanabon Myothit Project in PyinOoLwin Township

Investments from private entrepreneurs invited to ICT business

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye yesterday morning inspected the Yadanabon Myothit Project in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division where Teleport and Incubation will be constructed, and gave necessary instructions.

At the briefing hall, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC, Commander of Central Command and ministers heard a report presented by Chairman of e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw said that the area of Yadanabon Myothit is about 10,000 acres, and arrangements are being made for construction of Teleport and Incubation in the satellite town. The minister added that the stake driving ceremony was held on 30 June 2006 for construction of Teleport as the first phase and the most important part of the project. And efforts are being made in coordination with other relevant ministries to ensure water supply, electricity and human resources for the project. After that, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported on other salient points concerning the Yadanabon Myothit project. After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions, saying that efforts are to be made for Yadanabon Myothit to become a silicon mountain town; that invitation of investments from private entrepreneurs to the ICT business of the project is to be made, and that efforts are required for acquisition of local and foreign markets in future. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the map of Yadanabon Myothit, the scale model of Teleport and Incubation and the site chosen for the construction of buildings—MNA

Yadanabon Myothit is about 10,000 acres, and arrangements are being made for construction of Teleport and Incubation in the satellite town.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Build more roads for socio-economic development**

Nowadays, the government is implementing plans for parallel development of various regions across the Union. In doing so, construction of new roads and bridges have been given top priority as the transport infrastructure plays a pivotal role in regional development.

Networks of roads are being built the length and breadth of the nation. In 1988, the total length of roads was over 13,000 miles and now it has increased up to more than 19,000 miles. In a region like Chin State where there are mountains ranging 5,000 feet and above high, more than 1,000 miles of roads have been built.

For transport in Chin State, the Haka-Gantgaw, Haka-Matupi, Kalay-Falam-Haka and Mindat-Matupi roads are the arteries of the region. All these roads were upgraded from earth roads and gravel roads to tarred ones.

Construction of the Mindat-Matupi road started in 1995 but even in 1988, it was an earth road 16 feet wide and serviceable only in the dry weather. It was widened and paved with gravel year by year and now it has emerged as a 102-mile tarred road. It was inaugurated on 20 July. The Mindat-Matupi road serves as an access to other parts of the country from Matupi. Moreover, the Mindat-Kyaunkhau-Pauk road has also been upgraded. Therefore, it takes only half a day to travel by car from Mindat in Chin State to Pakokku in Magway Division.

In the past, it took nearly five days to travel from Mindat to Matupi but now it takes about six hours. We believe that the Mindat-Matupi road will contribute not only to health, education, economic and social status of the people in Mindat and Matupi townships but also to all-round development of Chin State.

**Shwedaung Association to hold Wabo robes offering ceremony**

**YANGON,** 24 July—Shwedaung Township Association (Yangon) invited its members to participate in the association’s Wabo robes offering ceremony to be held on 6 August at the Buddh Gaya Monastery in Sanyoung Township.

Those wishing to donate robes and offertories may contact U Aung Myint (Ph 095130245) and U Maung Maung Sein (Ph 095030409). — MNA

**ACMECS Workshop on Avian Influenza Prevention and Control held**

**YANGON,** 24 July—A ceremony to open ACMECS Workshop on Avian Influenza Prevention and Control sponsored by Myanmar and Thailand was held at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake Yangon on Natmauk Road here this morning.

It was attended by Director-General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Maung Nyunt, Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Nyunt, Acting Director-General of Medical Research Department Dr Kyaw Min, the Thai Ambassador and diplomats from other embassies, directors of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health, medical superintendents, professors/heads of department, experts, Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr Narongsakki Aungkasuvapala of the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand and members, and guests. Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Nyunt made an opening speech. Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt, Deputy Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt made an opening address at ACMECS Workshop on Avian Influenza and Control. — HEALTH

**Foreign Minister leaves for Malaysia to attend 39th AMM, 13th ARF, ASEAN+3 FM Meeting and PMCs**

**NAY PYI TAW,** 24 July—At the invitation of Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Mr Syed Hamid Albar, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyaw Win left here by air this afternoon for Malaysia to attend the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), 13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and Post Ministerial Conferences (PMCs) to be held on 24-28 July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ambassador of Myanmar to Malaysia U Myint Aung, Ambassador of Myanmar to the Philippines U Thaung Tun, Director-General of the Political Department U Nyan Lynn, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department U Aung Bwa, General Staff Officer Grade I (Planning) of the Ministry of Defence Lt-Col Ohn Cho, Minister Counsellor of Myanmar Embassy in KL U Win Myint, Deputy Director of the ASEAN Affairs Department U Aung Htoo, Head of Branch U Zaw Naing Win of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also participate in the meetings. — MNA

**Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association donates fans to Ministry of Sports**

**YANGON,** 24 July—Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association donated a total of 60 electric fans to the Ministry of Sports today.

At the donation ceremony held at Zekaba Co Ltd in Mingaladon Garden City, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepted the donation and spoke words of thanks.

Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association received fans from President of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association Dr Kim Jung Ho and party on their visit to Myanmar.

The ceremony was also attended by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htoo, Director-General of the Ministry of Sport, Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Min, Acting Director-General of the Ministry of Health Department Dr Tin Nyunt.

**Wellwishers Ko Kyaw Zaw Nyunt and Dr Judy Tin Lay donated K 100,000 to Hninzing Home for the Aged through Secretary of Administrative Board Major Aung Than (Retired).** — MNA

**Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepts 60 electric fans presented by Myanmar-Korean Friendship Association.** — NLM
Russia, Germany urge coordinated action to end M-E conflict

MOSCOW, 23 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on the world community on Friday to take coordinated action to defuse the latest crisis between Israel and Lebanon.

Putin and Merkel met over the weekend for the Group of Eight (G-8) summit in St Petersburg, during which the two and other G-8 leaders called on Hizbollah militants to “immediately halt their attacks” and urged Israel to “exercise utmost restraint” in its actions to defend itself.

FDA warns of lead use in lunch boxes

WASHINGTON, 23 July— The government is warning manufacturers to stop using lead to make lunch boxes. The officials aren’t talking about the hard, metal lunch boxes that dad or grandma carried, but the soft-sided vinyl kind, whose lining could contain lead.

Food and Drug regulators said the lunch boxes pose no immediate danger, but they’ve told firms to find new manufacturing techniques that don’t use lead. Lead can cause learning disabilities and behavioral problems. But an FDA official said it’s not clear whether this lead can contaminate the food stored inside.

Serial killings terrorize US western city

LOS ANGELES, 23 July — Two serial killers have killed 11 people since May, 2005 in Phoenix, a sprawling metropolis in the desert state of Arizona, terrorizing the city of 1.4 million.

The nightly attacks with guns have taken place across a 70-square-mile area of central metropolitan Phoenix, police sources said on Saturday. The area includes immigrant neighbourhoods bustling with taco stands and auto body shops, and high-end streets fronting upscale apartment complexes.

The killers apparently chose the victims at random, which include men and women of all ages, said the sources who refused to be named.

Police described one killer as a Black man who may use a disguise that includes a long-haired wig and a floppy-brimmed hat. He has killed five women and one man ages 19 to 39, and committed eight robberies and seven sexual assaults.

Police said the second killer, whose gender remains unknown, has shot at least 22 men and women ages 16 to 56. Five have died. Police believe the shots have come from a light-coloured, four-door sedan. Police said it was possible that more than one person was firing from the car.

The Phoenix Police Department has assembled a 120-person task force to investigate the crimes and is working with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives. — MNA/Xinhua

Coalition soldier killed in rocket attack in S-E Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 July—A US-led coalition soldier was killed Friday in Afghan southeast province of Paktika by rocket and mortar rounds fired by extremists, said the military.

Extremists fired several 120mm rocket and mortar rounds at the coalition base in the Sharan District of Paktika, some of which landed inside the compound, the coalition said in its news release.

The wounded soldier was taken to the aid station at the base, but died before a medical evacuation aircraft arrived.

“We will continue the fight until extremism is defeated in this country,” Major-General Benjamin C Freakley, commander of Combined Joint Task Force — 76, was quoted as saying in the news release. — MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb hits US patrol in eastern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 July—A roadside bomb went off near a US military patrol in eastern Baghdad on Saturday, causing casualties, a police source said.

A makeshift bomb detonated shortly after 9:00 am (0500 GMT) on main road near Zayouma neighbourhood, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. “Our patrols reported that a US Humvee was damaged and several US soldiers wounded in the blast,” the source said, adding that a US patrol cordoned off the area.

Earlier, another roadside bomb struck a US patrol on Quanat Street in eastern Baghdad, but it was not clear whether there was any casualty as US troops sealed off the area, police said.— MNA/Xinhua

Serial killings terrorize US western city

Russia, Germany urge coordinated action to end M-E conflict

Space scientist says China has stones from moon, Mars

BEIJING, 23 July — Although China has not sent any spacecraft to the moon and the Mars yet, it has got three stones from them.

“Chinese explorers found nearly 10,000 stones fallen from space in the Antarctic area, including one from the moon and two from the Mars,” said Ouyang Ziyuan, a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, at the ongoing 36th Committee on Space Research Scientific Assembly here Friday.

He said humanity has altogether obtained 26 stones fallen from the moon in the past. In addition, human beings have taken back samples of moon in the previous moon landings. — MNA/Xinhua

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Study links calcium to breast cancer

MELBOURNE, 23 July—A Queensland researcher has found calcium might be good for strong bones, but may also have a role in contributing to breast cancer.

The University of Queensland’s Won Jae Lee says calcium cells control many essential biological processes and may help propagate tumours.

“Most of the publicity is focused on calcium’s role as a mineral in the body — as in teeth and bones — but the other side of calcium is its signalling role,” Dr Lee said.

“It’s involved in virtually all biological processes but it’s because it acts as a signalling molecule that it acts as an important position there.

“Calcium is a generic signalling molecule it can be used to do pretty much anything — so what I mean by a signalling molecule is something that portrays messages in the body — essentially it is a mes-senger.”

He says there are a variety of tools that the body uses to control calcium signals and one of them — the plasma membrane calcium pump — is used to stop calcium signals.

“By inhibiting the calcium pump we could alter the calcium signal and also inhibit the proliferation of our breast cancer cell model.”

He says his research has found partial blocking of the calcium signal yielded significant results.

“It was partial in terms of 50 per cent inhibition we were looking at and that was enough to see dramatic action,” he said. “Whereas the cells that weren’t inhibited, they continued to grow.

“The cells which the calcium pump partially inhibited, these would grow slightly.”

Death toll in S-W China earthquake rises to 20

ZHAO TONG (Yunnan), 23 July — Death toll from the magnitude 5.1 earthquake in southwest China’s Yunnan Province Saturday has risen to at least 20, said local government sources.

Sixteen fatalities in Yanjin County and at least two in neighbouring Daguan County were reported, said a source with Zhaotong municipal government.

The epicenter of the quake, which occurred at 09:10 Saturday, was at 28 degrees North Latitude and 104.2 degrees East Longitude, about 90 kilometres from Zhaotong City, which administers Yanjin and Daguan.

The quake has left more than 100 injured and also destroyed over 1,400 houses, local officials said.

Houses in Yanjin, a county on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau with a population of 350,000, were mostly built near hillsides and therefore are vulnerable to earthquakes, said experts with China Seismological Bureau.

Several hundred workers have joined in the rescue operation.

The local civil affairs department has sent 500 tents, 1,000 quilts and 500 blankets to the quake-hit areas. — MNA/Xinhua

Space cookies to add flavour to astronauts’ diet

BEIJING, 23 July — A newly-developed space cookie made of silkworm pupa powder is set to add more taste to astronauts’ diet.

Masamuchi Yamashita, a researcher with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), released a recipe for the silkworm pupa cookies during the 36th scientific assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR).

The recipe comprises three to six grams of silkworm pupa powder, 200 grams of rice powder, 50 grams of soy powder and 300 cubic centimeters of soymilk, with soy sauce and salt.

All these ingredients will be available in space as soybeans and wheat have been grown successfully in simulated space chambers and methods of raising silkworms in space are under development, said Yamashita.

Astronauts may blend these materials with water and divide the mixture into small pieces.

“They will be flavoursome cookies after being fried for 15 minutes in a 600-watt inductive heating machine,” Naomi Katayama, a renowned Japanese nutritionist and member of Yamashita’s group, told Xinhua.

Blackout in New York may continue past Sunday

NEW YORK, 23 July — A blackout in northwest Queens, New York may continue past the weekend with 15,000 to 20,000 customers still without power, said Mayor Mike Bloomberg Saturday.

He said at a morning briefing that chances are dwindling the problem will be repaired by the end of the weekend.

The Mayor said it was not the time to point fingers that, though there will be a time to assign blame.

He stressed it was necessary to focus on recovery, and he also said there is no estimate on how much this blackout has cost the city.

Bad weather on Friday hindered efforts to repair a series of unexplained electrical failures in the borough. Power has been out in some neighbourhooods since Friday’s thunderstorms knocked out some circuits that had only recently been restored. Electrical crews from as far away as Columbus, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania were on their way to New York to assist in the restoration of the network.

Con Edison, the city’s major power supplier, has estimated that as many as 100,000 people have been without electricity.

Its initial underestimate of only 2,000 customers affected by the blackout has left some politicians and many Queens residents angry with the power company. — MNA/Xinhua

A fire helicopter flies past a wall of flames during fire fighting efforts at a fire burning about 40 miles (64 km) east of San Diego, California, on 23 July, 2006. — INTERNET

A man sits in his darkened convenience store in the Astoria neighbourhood in the Queens borough of New York on 22 July, 2006. — INTERNET

More than 100 Alphorn blowers perform during the International Alphorn contest in the southern part of Switzerland, on the Alp Tracouet in Nendaz, on 23 July, 2006. — INTERNET
China hopes to expand reciprocal cooperation with Micronesia

BEIJING, 23 July—China’s top political adviser Jia Qinglin said here Friday that China hopes to expand reciprocal cooperation with Micronesia and will push ahead with bilateral ties to a higher level.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, made the remarks in a meeting with Vice-President Resilie Killion of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Jia said the Chinese Government has attached great importance to relations with Micronesia and will work with the Micronesian Government to keep high-level exchanges and expand the cooperation for mutual benefit. He said China hopes the two countries would support each other on multilateral issues and enhance the development of bilateral ties.

Jia also expressed China’s appreciation to Micronesia for its adherence to the one-China policy.

Killion said the Micronesian Government is committed to deepening friendly ties with China and will continue to promote comprehensive cooperative ties with China based on the one-China policy.

Besides Beijing, Killion will visit northeast China’s Liaoning Province and east China’s Shandong Province.

India requested to help evacuate stranded Nepalis in Lebanon

KATHMANDU, 23 July—As the Israeli attack on Lebanon entered its 10th day, Nepal Government on Friday requested the Indian Government for assistance to help evacuate the stranded Nepalis in Lebanon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Khadga Rasaoli said that the government asked the Indian Government to help evacuate Nepali workers along with the Indians.

The Indian Government has already evacuated six Nepalis and pledged to bring 10 others from the Lebanese capital Beirut on Saturday, according to Oli.

The government also asked the Nepalis in Lebanon to contact the concerned Nepali office in Lebanon for possible evacuation.

India to use reserve dollars to skirt fuel crisis

THESSALONIKI, 23 July—Iran’s Government will try to avoid rationing gasoline from 23 September by seeking to dip into dollar reserves to pay for fuel imports, a member of Parliament said on Saturday.

Parliament has cut the budget for gasoline imports in the year to March 2007, prompting the oil minister to say Tehran would have to stop buying in gasoline shipments and start petrol rationing on 23 September. Iran’s final decision on how to cope with the budget cut is being keenly awaited by European and Asian gasoline traders who send a gasoline tanker to Iranian quaysides every two days.

Kamal Daneshyar, head of Parliament’s energy commission, said the government would submit a bill to Parliament seeking 4 billion US dollars to 4.5 billion US dollars to pay for extra imports as a way of sidestepping rationing that could spark social discontent.

“A bill to withdraw a sum of 4 billion US dollars to 4.5 billion US dollars from the Oil Stabilization Fund will be submitted to Parliament for importing gasoline and diesel in the coming days,” he said.

Iran’s dollar earnings above budgeted levels go into the Oil Stabilization Fund which, strictly speaking, is only supposed to be tapped if oil prices become considerably low. Daneshyar could give no indication of how such a bill would be received by lawmakers.

A tiger swims in a pool to relieve heat in a zoo in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 21 July, 2006. The city is now in scorching days.

Indian boy rescued from 17m hole

HARAYANA (India), 24 July—A five-year-old Indian boy stuck in a 17-metre deep hole for two days has been lifted to safety in a massive rescue effort seen on live television.

Troops and police had mounted a major operation, digging a tunnel from a nearby dry well to pull out the boy, who slipped into the hole while playing on Friday. As a tense nation watched the drama unfold on television, the boy was lifted out by crane and went off on the arms of a burly army officer.

The boy looked dazed but in good condition.

Diplomacy intensifies in Israel over Lebanon war

JERUSALEM, 24 July—Envoy from three European countries joined intensifying diplomacy in Israel on Sunday armed at ending fighting between Israeli forces and Hizbollah that has wrecked swathes of Lebanon and left hundreds dead.

Ministers from France, Germany and Britain held separate talks with Israeli officials ahead of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s arrival in the Middle East. She was due to leave Washington for the region on Sunday and expected to hold meetings in Israel on Tuesday. Among questions up for discussion was a possible beefed up peacekeeping force for south Lebanon, an idea backed by Israel’s Defence Minister as a way to keep Hizbollah from the border.

European countries have been far more critical of Israel’s offensive than its main ally, the United States, which has resisted growing calls for a ceasefire and made clear that it blames Iranian-backed Hizbollah for the crisis. Few expect diplomacy to deliver swift results and an Israeli newspaper reported on Sunday that Israeli officials believe they have a green light from Washington to continue the onslaught on Hizbollah for at least another week.

Handler killed by elephant at Tennessee sanctuary

NASHVILLE (Tennessee), 23 July—An elephant killed its female handler and injured a male handler at a Tennessee sanctuary on Friday, a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency official said.

The female handler died instantly after being stepped on or kicked by “Winkie”, a 40-year-old, 7,600-pound female Asian elephant, and a second attendant received minor injuries when he tried to intervene, TWRA official Doug Markham said.
Cuba, MERCOSUR sign tariff-eliminating trade pact

CORDOBA (Argentina), 23 July — The Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and Cuba on Friday signed an agreement on eliminating tariffs and boosting complementary trade, on the sidelines of the 30th MERCOSUR Summit in Cordoba, Argentina.

Unruly giant Panda gives birth after artificial insemination

CHENNAI, 23 July — A giant panda who fled captivity and remained at large for four and a half years gave birth to a female cub in southwest China on Saturday, eight months after she was recaptured, an expert said.

The cub, weighing 160 grams, was born at 8:50 am at the China Wolong Giant Panda Protection and Research Centre, which is based in Sichuan Province, said the centre's head Zhang Hemin.

The delivery, the first fruit of artificial insemination this year among the endangered species, turned the celebrity giant panda, known for her unruliness, a heroine again, said Zhang.

The mother, named Bai Xue, or Snow White, received artificial insemination three months ago.

Both mother and daughter are in good condition, Zhang said.

New members angry as EU stalls on US visas

BRUSSELS, 23 July — New eastern members of the European Union are angry that the European Commission has again stalled retaliation against the United States for continuing to impose visa requirements on their nationals, diplomats say.

The United States does not require visas for citizens of 15 of the 25 countries in the EU. The Commission has warned Washington the EU could impose a visa requirement on US diplomats and government officials if it does not extend its visa waiver scheme to Greece and nine mostly ex-Communist states that joined the EU in 2004.

The EU executive was due to present a report to justice and interior ministers next Monday recommending such steps, but the document has been delayed for two months, prompting threats of unilateral action by the Czech Republic, normally one of Washington's most faithful allies on foreign policy.

“We received the information from Canada and the United States too late to present it at the Council next week,” European Commission spokesman Pietro Petrucci confirmed.

He said the report would be issued in the second week of September.

The Commission said in January it wanted progress before it reported in July and warned it had the power to recommend sanctions.

Chinese police launches campaign against piracy

BEIJING, 23 July — The Ministry of Public Security has launched an anti-piracy campaign throughout the country, to crack down on illegal reproduction of copyrighted materials.

The campaign, to last from late July till the end of October, is targeted at bringing organizers and chief culprits of such illegal activities to justice.

The Ministry on Thursday issued a notice to police organs all over the country, asking them to further investigate and uncover illegal DVD production lines and arrest heads of gangs engaged in illegal reproduction of DVDs and books.

Police will intensify patrol and examination at railway stations, bus stops, harbours and airports searching for clues on pirated materials production, transportation and sales.

Police will strengthen management of rented houses and apartments to prevent them from being used for producing or storing pirated DVDs or books.

Chinese law provides that a peddler will be sentenced to three to seven years behind bars, if he/she has sold 5,000 or more pirated DVDs.

Iraqi detainee’s abuse was widespread, routine

WASHINGTON, 23 July — Iraqi detainees were routinely subjected to beatings, sleep deprivation, stress positions and other forms of abuse by US interrogators, according to a Human Rights Watch report released on Sunday that offers first-hand accounts from three former soldiers.

The US-based watchdog group said its report discredits government arguments casting mistreatment of detainees as the aberrant and unauthorized work of a few personnel.

It included accounts by former soldiers who said detainees were regularly subjected to beatings, sleep deprivation and stress positions — practices that started to come to light two years ago when pictures of physical abuse and sexual humiliation at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib Prison surfaced.

“These accounts rebut US Government claims that torture and abuse in Iraq was unauthorized and exceptional — on the contrary, it was condoned and commonly used,” said John Sifton, author of the report and the group’s senior researcher on terrorism and counter-terrorism.

A Defence Department spokesman, however, said 12 reviews have been conducted and none found the Pentagon promulgated a policy that condoned, directed or encouraged abuse.

“The standard of treatment is and always has been humane treatment of detainees in DoD’s custody,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Ballesteros, a Pentagon spokesman.

People gather at the site where the bomb exploded in Baghdad’s eastern neighbourhood of Sadr City on 23 July, 2006. — INTERNET

An Airbus A380-800 aircraft arrives at Farnborough International Airshow in Farnborough, England, on 23 July, 2006. — INTERNET
Yangon, 24 July — The number of CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) filling stations in Yangon reached 19 after one more station was opened today in Insein Township.

The opening ceremony of the station No 019 near Sawbwagyigon Junction in Insein Township was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and guests.

Col Myat Min formally opened the station. After the opening ceremony, the commander, the minister and party inspected the station and its services.

The fuel gas for vehicles are available at the stations around the clock. — MNA

CNG filling station opened in Insein Township

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Sports on tour of Sagaing Division

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Member of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met with chairmen of the Sagaing/Monywa/Shwebo District War Veterans Supervisory Committees and the Township War Veterans Organizing Committees at the office of Sagaing Division WVO on 17 July and gave necessary instructions. And he presented war veteran Longyis worth K 420,000 to those from the Supervisory Committees and the Organizing Committees.

The minister on 19 July attended the ceremony to donate desks to Kyigon Village Basic Education Primary School held at the school in ChaungU Township and made a speech on the occasion.

He also attended the ceremony to donate desks to the basic education primary schools held at Gwebintaw Village in Myinmu Township and presented desks, sports gear and exercise books. On arrival at the Basic Education High School in Myaung, the minister met members of social organizations, teachers and students and presented 28 desks and sport gear for the school.

The minister and well-wishers donated 2,129 desks worth K 17 million to 416 primary schools in Sagaing Division. — MNA

Minister for Sports on tour of Sagaing Division

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association will hold 11th Anniversary Annual General Meeting at Sedona Hotel on 6 August. The market festival of MWEA will also be organized at the hotel from 8 am to 8 pm on 6 August. Members of MWEA may book tickets for dinner. — MNA

MWEA to hold 11th Anniversary General Meeting

Yangon, 24 July — The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
On 7 July 2006, I watched the evening news on the screen about the return to the legal fold of a national race armed group.

The news item said that putting trust in the government, the entire people and the benevolent attitude and nation-building drive of the Tatmadaw, 848 members led by Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) returned to the legal fold on 6 July 2006 after making contacts with the Eastern Command.

As the news was announced, the scenes appeared one after another on the screen. Hundreds of members were standing in rows and holding various kinds of heavy weapons and small arms. Their faces were bright with hopes.

The SSA-S members brought together with them 24 kinds of heavy weapons, 834 assorted small arms, 1,990 magazines, 157,971 rounds of ammunition, 55 hand grenades, 63 mines, 15 communication sets and 120 walkie-talkies.

Local people in Loilem and Lankho districts in Shan State (South) felt encouraged most among the people who watched the news across the nation. Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye and officials gave a warm welcome to U Mein Sin and party and allocated a region for them to live, earn their living and carry out regional development undertakings. Moreover, the commander made arrangements to provide food, clothing and shelter for their convenience.

In the next scene, the commander received the leaders of Brigade (758) at the hall of the Eastern Command. At the call, he gave words of advice and presented K 30 million provided by the State to them. Next, they shook hands.

The massive return to the legal fold based on reaching total understanding brought a great pleasure to local people in Shan State (South, North and East) who were hungry for peace, stability and development of their region, the entire national people and the Tatmadaw. They also received a tumultuous welcome.

The news reflected the feelings and images of those who entered the legal fold after their realization and the people who offered a rousing welcome to them.

Although the news story and scenes were brief, the happiness and joy of local people in Loilem, Lankho and Taunggyi districts would linger on. Just after the news programme, many local people were on the phone to exchange their views on the news. In the following morning, the good news became the talk of the people everywhere especially in the tea shops, markets and busy places. The people of the entire nation took great delight for long in watching and hearing the news.

It was because the news directly contributed towards one of the State’s political objective “Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order”, indicated the achievement of the Tatmadaw Government, depicted patriotic spirit and Union Spirit equipped by those who returned to the legal fold, and sent the message to local people that the days of living in fear were over.

About a month before the announcement of the news report on the return to the legal fold of 848 men under the command of U Mein Sin together with various kinds of arms and ammunition, a Government Computer College, built by the Tatmadaw government, was opened in Hpa-an, Kayin State, at a grand ceremony at which Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. The address itself shed light on the regional peace.

At the ceremony, the Secretary-1 said, “The local people know best the evil consequences of armed insurgency in which they had lived in fear as their regions were lacking peace and stability, and were also suffering from a lot of hardships resulting from loss of lives and property and harassment and terrorism in the absence of the rule of law.

“The entire education system set up by the government fell apart at the villages lying in the nation’s far corners where schools were destroyed by the armed insurgents who denied local children’s access to education and drove local people out of their homes.”

(see page 9)
The way Ywet Sit’s insurgents are recruiting new members is that they take by force one if a family has two sons, and if it has only one son they take that one. Ywet Sit’s men never allow children and young persons to pursue education. Instead, the insurgents are using them as their source of reinforcements. They take local youths away to the bases in the remote border areas along the jungle passages passing through mountains and gorges. At the base, the recruits are totally cut off from the outside world. The only two things they are permitted to hold are arms and the racial hatred.

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At the base, the recruits are totally cut off from the outside world. The only two things they are permitted to hold are arms and the racial hatred.

After being infused with racial hatred, the new members are sent to far-off areas with orders to cultivate poppy, collect opium taxes and extortion money, commit armed robberies and armed threats, kill people, plant mines and ambush people. But if the insurgents encounter a Tatmadaw column they flee in disarray.

But the top brass of the insurgent group although giving random orders as they like to their subordinates are enjoying a luxurious life in the other country, running business enterprises, acting as drug agents, producing and trafficking narcotics and appeasing the Western powers, while failing to do anything good for the nation and the people. They have never built even a furlong of road, a classroom or a ten-foot bridge.

They have been following the armed struggle line for over forty years, but they instead of serving the interest of the nation, the people and the region, are committing evil deeds.

At the ceremony, the Secretary-1 also said, “Years of armed insurgency put the people of the state still in evil quagmire that has been depriving them of peace and stability, destroying lots of lives and property, and forbidding them to earn their living and develop their native land as much as they can.

“The policy of armed struggle line, that has never produced any actual benefits for the race and the region, has been weakening gradually with the passage of time until it is overwhelmed by terrorism that cannot distinguish between friend and foe. A result is that the insurgents are relying more on aliens. It is high time they realized it.”

Of the persons who are preparing to return to the legal fold after realizing the objective conditions, the return to the legal fold of 848 men led by U Mein Sin can be seen as a new page in the history towards peace or the rays of hope for the nation. They will be able to serve the interests of the region all the more with the government’s leadership.

All the people are looking forward to welcoming the armed groups who are about to return to the legal fold.

They’ve made it to the peace station via peace path
In reciprocal embrace, hearts throb in tandem
Reverberating Shan Ozi music
They’ve made it incessantly, there’re more to come.

(Translation: MS+TMT) ******
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Bontalar…

Wellwisher U Lian Tang presented K300,000 to Chin State additional Assistant Education Officer U Myint Swe. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander presented stationery, sports gear, computers and a printer for the school.

Member of the School Board of Trustees U Lian Tang explained the opening of the multimedia classroom and U Myint Swe thanked the donors.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint greeted those present at the ceremony and discussed the maintenance of the classroom, teaching and development of the education sector. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the development of Matupi and Winthuza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1 and the People’s Hospital. They provided cash to the patients undergoing treatment at the hospital and health staff. They inspected cultivation of teak on 3.5 acres of land in the hospital compound.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met local authorities at Matupi Township Peace and Development Council Office. Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Nyunt Soe reported on cultivation of paddy, physic nut and tea, sufficiency of rice in the region, raising of mythum and education, health and transport matters and Lt-Gen Ye Myint on condition of Mindat and undertakings of rural development.

The commander and Col San Aung gave supplementary reports. In his discussions, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said he came to Chin State to fulfill the requirements and departmental officials are to make efforts to become a tea-producing state. Local people of Matupi have opportunities to grow perennial crops on a commercial scale, he added. Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented medicines and equipment used in operation theatre and clothes and the commander exercised books and sports gear to officials concerned.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint greeted those present at the meeting and inspected tea plantation in the compound of Township Peace and Development Council Office. He also inspected tea plantation of regional battles and border areas and national races development training school. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander presented clothes and exercise books and sports gear to the officials.

They also inspected the domestic science and vocational training school for women. Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented cash for the trainees. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander presented ofertories and cash to members of the Sangha of the monastery in Matupi. They also visited No 1 BEHS in Matupi.

They proceeded to Bontalar hydel power project site where project in-charge Major Ye Htu reported on the data of the project and Managing Director of Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries U Kyaw Win on installation of generators.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the hydel power station and gave instructions on upgrading of road to the project site, power supply and worksite safety. Two 250 kilowatt turbines will generate power and over 88 per cent of the project have completed. They left the site for Matupi in the afternoon. — MNA

Minister inspects Maubin Paper Factory

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo yesterday went to Myanma Jute Enterprise’s Maubin Paper Factory in Maubin Township and inspected production process of the factory.

He called for production of marketable papers and increasing the share of the market. He also urged officials concerned to seek ways for running the factory at full capacity.

Factory Manager U Ko Lay reported to the minister on the stockpiling of raw materials to run the factory at full capacity and the factory’s paper production.

After his tour of inspection, Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo met with members of the supervisory committee for agriculture and called for exceeding the target of per acre yield.

Gems and Jade Sales of UMEHL on 28 August

YANGON, 24 July — Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd will hold its 21st Gems and Jade Sales-2006 from 28 August to 1st September at Myanmar Convention Centre here.

The sales will be organized through the bargain and auction systems from 31 August to 1st September. Merchants will be allowed to examine the gems and jade from 28 to 30 August.

Those wishing to buy gems and jade may register as from 26 August. Sellers will have to pay 0.4 per cent commission on each item to be sold at the sales.

One per cent commission will be charged for sales in foreign currency while three per cent in Myanmar currency.

More information are available at Myanma Ruby Enterprise Co Ltd of No 24/26, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Ph 371053, 370561 and Myanmar Imperial Jade Co Ltd of No 24/26, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Ph 371027, 370564. — MNA

YCDC strives for smooth transportation in Yangon

YANGON, 24 July — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lynn today inspected road works in Kyauktada, Dawbon and Thingangyun Townships.

As part of an effort for the smoothful transportation in Yangon, road repairs were being carried out along the Merchant Street in Kyauktada Township, Minnanda Road in Dawbon Township and Ledaukkkan Road in Thingangyun Township.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint receives Mr Lee Ju Heum, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Myanmar. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint received Mr Lee Ju Heum, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Myanmar.

MNA

Culture Minister receives Korean Ambassador

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials, townswelders and members of social organizations at Township PDC’s office in Matupi. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspects production process of Paper Factory in Maubin Township. — A&I

More information are available at Myanma Ruby Enterprise Co Ltd of No 24/26, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Ph 371053, 370561 and Myanmar Imperial Jade Co Ltd of No 24/26, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Ph 371027, 370564. — MNA
Chinese scientists to focus on 4 tasks in Moon exploration

BEIJING, 24 July — A leading Chinese lunar scientist said on Friday that the Chinese lunar exploration programme would focus on four major tasks.

Chinese scientists were scheduled to sketch a three-dimensional lunar map, and analyze 14 mineral elements, including titanium and helium, said Ouyang Ziyuan.

The other two tasks were to measure the temperature of the lunar surface by microwave radiation technology, and probe the space environment between the Earth and the Moon, he told the 36th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR).

China’s space agency plans to launch its first lunar unmanned spacecraft for a soft landing on the Moon.

Box office success of British films draws in cinema goers

LONDON, 24 July — One in four Britons went to the cinema at least once a week last year, making British film fans amongst the keenest in the world, and defying a global decline in ticket sales, the UK Film Council said on Saturday.


Admissions around the world fell in 2005, by nine per cent in the United States, 10 per cent in France and 19 per cent in Germany.

“2005 was a great year for British films at the cinema with the largest slice of box office taking sine records began,” the chief executive of the UK Film Council said.

“In addition we are seeing the public becoming more adventurous in their film choices with a growth in audiences for foreign language films,” John Woodward said in a statement.

British films accounted for a third of cinema receipts in Britain and brought in over £3 billion US dollars worldwide while the three most successful foreign films were “Downfall” (German), “A Very Long Engagement” (French) and “Kung Fu Hustle” (Cantonese).

The report showed the market share of British films at the US box office was 16 per cent, up from 11 per cent in 2004.

The UK Film Council Statistical Yearbook 2005 showed box office revenue in Britain was £770 million pounds, steady on 2004 figures but up 87 per cent against the level in 1996.

6,700 Canadians evacuated from Lebanon

OTTAWA, 24 July — About 6,700 Canadian citizens have been evacuated from Lebanon as more people are struggling to leave the war-torn country, Foreign Affairs officials said on Sunday.

In an interview Sunday, Foreign Minister Peter MacKay updated the number of Canadian citizens in Lebanon to 40,000, from the original 50,000.

MacKay said of particular concern is an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 Canadians trapped in the south of Lebanon and that efforts were continuing to get them out.

He said Canadian Government has contacted with the Israeli Government on the issue and has managed to pinpoint the locations of many of them.

The violence that erupted between Lebanon-based Hezbollah militants and Israeli Army on 12 July has killed at least 375 people in Lebanon, including at least eight Canadians, and 36 people in Israel. About 600,000 people, mostly in Lebanon, are thought to have fled their homes.

Thai 2006 economic growth projected at 4.5%

BANGKOK, 24 July — Driven mainly by the export and service sectors, Thailand’s economic growth in 2006 is projected at 4.5 per cent, almost the same as last year, according to the official Thai News Agency on Sunday.

The news agency quoted deputy spokesman of the Finance Ministry’s Fiscal Policy Office Ekanti Nitunpraphas as saying that it was rather negative for the country to depend mainly on exports which could be affected by a slowdown in the global economy as the United States is suffering from a huge trade deficit.

During the second half of 2006, Thailand’s economy is projected to slow down due to local political uncertainties which depressed investment in both the public and private sectors so far this year, particularly on construction and property businesses, he said.

An Indonesian woman reunites with a family member in front of her damaged house in Pangandaran, west Java Province on 22 July, 2006.

Fears of diseases grew in Indonesia’s tsunami-hit areas on Saturday as thousands of people camped out in the heat with no clean water five days after the disaster that killed nearly 700 people.

Miss Puerto Rico crowned Miss Universe

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — Miss Puerto Rico, Zuleyka Rivera Mendoza, the youngest of the five finalists, was crowned Miss Universe on Sunday night.

The first runner-up was Miss Japan, Kurara Chibana. The 55th Miss Universe contest was held at the fabled Shrine Auditorium downtown Los Angeles.

It was a homecoming of sorts. The first Miss Universe pageant was held about 25 miles (40 kilometres) away in Long Beach, California, in 1952.

Ending her year as Miss Universe was Canadian Natalie Glebova, who was born in Russia. Among the issues she helped herald during her reign was the need for assistance to people with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Another aftershock hits Indonesia’s Pangandaran

JAKARTA, 24 July — A minor earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale jolted Pangandaran region at 10:21 am on Saturday.

Tretes Meteorological and Geophysical office head Hardiyanto said on Saturday.

He said in Surabai, the second largest city in Indonesia, the epicentre of the earthquake which took place at 9.40 degrees Southern Latitude and 108.41 degrees Eastern Longitude in the Indian Ocean, some 600 kilometres from Java Island.

“The scale of the quake is small as it is a tremor of the previous earthquake which occurred on Monday, 17 July,” Antara news agency quoted Hardiyanto as saying.

The southern coast of Java was hit by a series of earthquakes triggering tsunami on 17 July, killing more than 600 and destroying or damaging 1,651 houses, buildings, boats and motor vehicles along the coast from West Java to Yogakarta. It also forced 51,759 people to evacuate.


An Indonesian woman reunites with a family member in front of her damaged house in Pangandaran, west Java Province on 22 July, 2006.
China, US work jointly to repatriate illegal immigrants

BEIJING, 23 July—Police from China and the United States joined hands for the first time to repatriate illegal Chinese immigrants by a chartered flight recently, a source from the Ministry of Public Security said Saturday.

Speaking on official with the Ministry of Public Security said US officials submitted a 288-person list of illegal immigrants and asked Chinese police to confirm their IDs, prior to the visit of Michael Chertoff, the newly appointed US secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in early April.

During Michael Chertoff’s visit in Beijing, China and the United States reached agreement on repatriation of illegal immigrants. On 26 June, a panel, consisting of Chinese police liaison officer and diplomats from the Chinese Embassy and General Consulate in Houston, Texas reached El Paso, Texas to check preparation and safety measures for the repatriation.

On 28 June, a chartered plane left the United States for Changle International Airport in east China’s Fujian Province, marking the first success in Sino-US cooperation in repatriating illegal immigrants via chartered flight, the official said.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
INVITATION TO SEALED QUOTATION

1. Sealed quotations are invited by the Myanma Port Authority, for the supply of the Spare Parts for Vessel.

2. Quotation forms and documents are available at the Stores Department, Seik Kan Township, Myanma Port Authority, starting from 27-8-2006, during office hours.

3. For further details, please contact telephone number 292334 and 292301

Controller of Stores
Stores Department
Myanma Port Authority

Diana coroner quits over work pressure

LONDON, 23 July — The inquest into Princess Diana’s death is likely to be delayed after the royal coroner quit, blaming the work load of his main job as the coroner for the county of Surrey in southern England, newspapers said on Saturday.

The inquest conducted by Michael Burgess into Diana, who was killed along with her companion Dodi al Fayed and their driver in a Paris car crash nine years ago, has been under way since 2004.

Burgess has asked for a senior judicial figure to take on the case, the newspapers said. An inquiry headed by John Stevens, the former head of the Metropolitan Police, into the circumstances surrounding Diana’s death was expected to deliver to lord advocate to Burgess next month.

Burgess had asked Stevens to examine allegations that Diana’s death was not an accident. A French inquiry in 2004 ruled that the accident was caused by a senior judge who was driving too fast did little to stem rumours of a conspiracy and that Diana and Dodi were killed.

Burgess previously said he wanted the inquest to put an end to the speculation.

On the day the inquest began in January 2004, reports said that Diana had written a letter to her former butler Paul Burrell 10 months before her death in which she said she suspected Charles was trying to kill her.

“This particular phase in my life is the most dangerous,” the letter said, according to excerpts leaked to the British media. “My husband is planning ‘an accident’ in my car, brake failure and serious head injury.”

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This particular phase in my life is the most dangerous, the letter said, according to excerpts leaked to the British media. “My husband is planning ‘an accident’ in my car, brake failure and serious head injury.”
China to enjoy more int’l cooperation in future lunar exploration

BEIJING, 23 July—China will cooperate more closely with space agencies in Russia, Europe and the United States in future lunar exploration, announced a leading Chinese space scientist on Friday.

At the ongoing 36th Committee on Space Research Scientific Assembly, Ouyang Ziyuan, a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that China has already worked closely with Russia in the fields of space instruments, facilities and observation and control of spacecraft.

“We have also cooperated with the European Space Agency (ESA) in the fields of observation and control techno-logies,” Ouyang said, adding that the cooperation will be extended to the United States.

International cooperation is necessary in lunar exploration, the scientist added.
MNA/Xinhua

Iranian cleric accuses UN of tyranny on atomic work

TEHRAN, 23 July—The UN Security Council risks committing “a historic act of tyranny” against Iran if it passes a resolution demanding Teheran stop making nuclear fuel, powerful cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Friday.

UN Security Council permanent members are wrangling over the text of a draft resolution that includes the threat of sanctions if Iran fails to halt making enriched uranium, which the West argues will be used in atomic warheads.

“One on our nuclear issue, we are now witnessing a cruel act,” Rafsanjani told Friday prayers worshippers in Teheran. “They are going to commit another historic act of tyranny against Iran, despite Iran announcing several times that it is ready to negotiate,” he added, referring to the UN Security Council resolution.

He said it would be humiliating for Iran to end its domestic nuclear fuel cycle, which it says it needs to run nuclear power stations. “If Iran accepts, that would mean putting our hands up and surrendering,” he continued. — MNA/Reuters

Six Iraqi security force members killed in S Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 July — Iraqi security forces fought unknown militants in the volatile town of Mahmodiyah on Friday, during which six members of security forces were killed, an Interior Ministry source said.

“Fierce clashes erupted in the day between Iraqi security forces and unknown gunmen in the Askari neighbourhood of Mahmodiyah Town, some 30 kilometres south of Baghdad,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

“Our first report said that three Iraqi soldiers and three policemen were killed in the clash,” the source said.

Tanzania bans pool playing during work against crimes

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 23 July — The Tanzanian police forces have banned playing pool games during working hours in an effort to crack down on crimes, especially organized crimes.

According to a police statement issued in Dar-es-Salaam, the ban disallows people to play the game either during working hours or after midnight.

Police spokesman Isaka Mugasa explained that police investigations had found out that idlers and potential criminals were roaming recreation spots and bars and most of them were often found playing the game of pool during working hours.
MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian federal police launches anti-corruption operation

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 July — Brazil’s Federal Police on Friday launched an internal anti-corruption operation within the agency, making 17 arrests in Rio de Janeiro.

Among the detainees were a current Interpol representative in Brazil and eight federal agents, including two former superintendents of the agency, four chiefs, a regular agent and a stenographer.

The arrested were charged with crimes against public administration.

Attorney Tarcisio de Figueiredo Pelucio, a suspected gang leader, was believed to have bribed the agents to distort police investigations so as to get the acquittal of his clients.

The intelligence agency of the Federal Police, along with the Social Security Institute (INSS) and public prosecutors, had been investigating the corruption case for more than one year.

In Friday’s crackdown, two attorneys who worked for Pelucio’s office were also arrested.

In the same raid, police also searched the house and office of former vice superintendent of the Federal Police, Ricardo Prelu, who currently represents Interpol in Brazil.

MNA/Xinhua
S P O R T S

Zambia through to Cosafa Castle Cup semifinal

WINDHOEK, 24 July—Zambia booked a place in the semifinals of the Cosafa Castle Cup with a 2-0 win over the Seychelles in the Group C mini-tournament on Sunday.

First-half goals from James Chamanga and Ignatius Lwipa secured the win over the islanders, who had secured a surprise victory over hosts Namibia on Saturday.

Zambia, twice winners of the annual southern African championship, will host Botswana in the semifinal next month while defending champions Zimbabwe are up against World Cup finalists Angola in Harare in September.

Zambia dominated their island opponents and opened the scoring in the 33rd minute through Chamanga, who tapped in a square pass from Dube Phiri.

A second goal was added by Lwipa, latching on to a pass from deep in defence and lobbying over the head of Seychelles goalkeeper Nelson Sopha in the 44th minute.

Zambia also hit the woodwork through Rainford Kalaba, who also had a close-in header late in the game ruled offside.

Hosts Namibia came from behind to beat Malawi 3-2 in the third place playoff match earlier in the day. MNA/Reuters

Japan edge China 1-0 in AFC Women's Asia Cup

ADELAIDE (Australia) 24 July—Ayano Miyama scored the only goal of the match to help Japan clinch a 1-0 victory over China at the Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2006 on Sunday.

Miyuki Yanagida sent the freekick straight into the crowded penalty box and as Chinese goalkeeper Zhang Yanru was preparing to punch it Miyama dived to reach the ball first with her head on 18 minutes.

In another clash of Group A, Vietnam also booked a 1-0 win, over Taibei.

Vietnam's sole goal was fired by substitute midfielder Vu Thi Huyen Linh on 71 minutes in the match which kicked off simultaneously at the Marden Stadium. MNA/Xinhua

Corinthians sink to bottom despite Tevez leveller

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 July—Brazilian champions Corinthians slumped to the bottom of the table at the weekend despite scoring 2-2 at home to Fortaleza and ending a run of six straight defeats.

Argentina forward Carlos Tevez salvaged a point for Corinthians with a second-half equalizer and celebrated by running to his team's fans and putting his finger over his lips, implying they should be quiet.

Tevez later said he had become fed up with the fans jeering the team.

"Myself and my teammates won the Brazilian championship last year but if we lose one game, they start insulting us," he said. "But that's Corinthians."

Corinthians, whose partnership with London-based Media Sport Investments have made them Brazil's richest club, went ahead in the 31st minute when teen-aged Ramon scored with an angled shot.

But Fortaleza hit back as Finazzi headed home in first-half injury-time and Andre Cunha pounced on a defensive mistake to put them in front in the 62nd minute.

With the Corinthians fans already protesting, Tevez, playing his first game since the World Cup, blasted the equalizer 11 minutes later.

Corinthians prop up the table with 10 points from 13 games, two behind Fortaleza and Santa Cruz and three behind their arch-rivals Palmeiras.

Former South American champions Palmeiras moved off the bottom by beating Goias 3-1 to chalk up their third successive win.

Nen gave Palmeiras an early lead and, although Souza levelled two minutes later, they went back in front with a looping 30-metre free kick from midfielder Paulo Baier in the 24th minute.

A second-half penalty converted by veteran Edmundo wrapped up the points.

Leaders Sao Paulo won 3-1 at Ponte Preta despite fielding a reserve team, saving their regulars for Wednesday's Libertadores Cup semifinal first leg in Mexico against Guadalajara.

Tito put Ponte ahead from a twice-taken penalty in the 12th minute after goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni saved his first effort but was judged to have moved. MNA/Reuters

Adriano to stay in Inter Milan

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 July—Brazil striker Adriano said Sunday he was staying at his Italian club Inter Milan.

Adriano had an unhappy season with Inter last year and was also below par for Brazil in the World Cup, despite scoring two goals. "I'm not leaving Inter Milan but I'm happy to hear that other teams want to sign me," he told reporters.

"The Inter Milan fans like me a lot and so does the club president. That's why I'm at Inter today," he added.

He added that he had not had a good season so far and had done his utmost to recover the level of form he had enjoyed before the World Cup.

"When the Italian championship starts, I want to go back to being the Adriano the fans knew before — The Emperor," he said. Adriano, who imposed a media silence during the part of the World Cup, also commented on his omission from the starting line-up for Brazil's quarterfinal against France.

Brazil lost the game 1-0 — MNA/Reuters

Hayden wins US GP as Rossi falters

LOS ANGELES, 24 July—American Nicky Hayden boosted his MotoGP championship hopes with a second straight US Grand Prix victory on Sunday, while Valentino Rossi's bid for a sixth 500cc crown suffered a punishing blow.

Hayden, who claimed his maiden career win on the undulating Laguna Seca circuit last year, stalked pole sitter Chris Vermeulen through the early stages of the race until passing the Australian on lap 17 then charging home 3.18 seconds ahead of Honda teammate Dani Pedrosa of Spain. Italy's Marco Melandri, racing with a broken collar bone, was third, also on a Honda.

Five-time 500cc champion Rossi started well back from 10th position after another disappointing qualifying effort, but was quickly on the charge working his way up to sixth midway through the 32-lap race.

But with three laps remaining disaster struck as blue smoke began pouring out of the back of the Italian's Yamaha leaving him on the sidelines and out of the points.

Hayden's second victory of the season gives the American 194 points and a 34-point lead over Pedrosa with six races remaining.

Rossi, who had arrived in California trailing Hayden by 26 points, slips to fourth in the standings with 143 points.

After coming from 11th to take victory last week at the German Grand Prix, Rossi had looked poised to stage another riveting fightback and put more pressure on Hayden until his engine expired, marking the third time he has failed to finish this season.

The MotoGP schedule now shifts back to Europe for the Czech Grand Prix on 23 August.—MNA/Reuters

China's Wu Minxia smiles after the women's 3-metre springboard event at the FINA World Cup competition in Chongshu, a city in east China's Jiangsu Province, on 22 July, 2006. Wu grabs China's 10th World Cup gold with 373.40 points.—INTERNET

Japan's Hiroshi Aoyama during the third round of the British Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake on 22 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Adriano said on Sunday he was staying at his Italian club Inter Milan. MNA/Reuters

Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp is lifted up by team-mate Thierry Henry (R) and former team-mate Patrick Vieira (L) following a pre-season friendly testimonial match against Ajax at the Emirates Stadium in London on 22 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Sergio Garcia jumps after his shot on the 11th hole during the third round of the British Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake on 22 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Douglas Diaz from Venezuela (L) and Tony Frans from Bonaire Island cross paths during a freestyle training session of the Fuerteventura Windsurfing & Kitelboarding World Cup 2006 in Fuerteventura on 22 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Spain's Sergio Garcia jumps after his shot on the 11th hole during the third round of the British Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake on 22 July, 2006.—INTERNET
South China’s island province reports 362 centenarians

HAIKOU, 24 July — The number of centenarians in South China’s island province of Hainan has climbed to 362, 76 more than in 2000, latest statistics show.

The province has now 16 senior citizens aged 106 and older, with only one of them a male. The oldest centenarian is Fu Yongfeng, a female aged 113, who lives in the Qiaqian Town of the Lian Autonomous County of Chongjiang.

The pleasant climate and environment are considered to be the main reasons Hainan has become an “island of longevity”, said Xu Yongjian, Hainan Provincial Working Committee for the Aged People.

China will remain an aging society during this century in which 11 per cent of its present population, about 145 million, are over 60. It is predicted that the Chinese elderly population will reach 170 million in 2010, 12.5 per cent of the total, and 243 million in 2020, 17 per cent of the total.

Nepal announces free health services

KATHMANDU, 24 July — The Nepali Ministry of Health and Population has announced free health services in emergency and in-patient departments of all the district hospitals and primary health care centres, the Himalayan Times reported on Saturday.

Releasing the major health programmes for this year in a press conference at Health Ministry Friday, Mahesh Maskey, adviser to Health Minister, said the free health programme will be expanded to smaller hospitals next year.

He said the government has allocated 50 million Nepalese rupees (714,285 US dollars) for the programme this year.

To reduce the scarcity of doctors in health institutions, the government also announced that around 150 doctors who graduated under the government scholarships will have to serve in primary healthcare centres and district hospitals, Maskey told the newspaper.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Monday, 24 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thunder-showers has been isolated in Kayin State, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Chin States, Bago Division widely widespread in Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy fall in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (1.73) cm, Kyankupadaung (1.53) cm, Dawei (1.26) inches, Co co Island (1.22) inches and Aunglan (0.94) inch.

Maximum temperature on 23-7-2006 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 24-7-2006 was 96°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-7-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 23-7-2006 was (2.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 24-7-2006 were (0.20) inch at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.24) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (48.94) inches at Mingaladon, (59.33) inches at Kaba-Aye and (64.45) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southwest at (14:20) hours MST on 23-7-2006.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-7-2006: Rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagon, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Southern Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, Ayeawady and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in Coastal areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 25-7-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 25-7-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers with sunny period. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 25-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:00 hours MST on 24-7-2006)

According to the (06:30 hrs) MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (771) cm. It may remain above its danger level (750) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

8:20 am
7. Song of yesteryears
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Let’s Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Every-day Use
4:45 pm
4. ယမ်းစားဒီယို (သားကြီးစိုက်) (သားကြီးစိုက်)
5:00 pm
5. Dance of national races
5:15 pm
6. ဘီစီစျေးခြင်း (သားကြီးစိုက်) (သားကြီးစိုက်)
5:25 pm
7. အူညာပြု (သားကြီးစိုက်)
5:30 pm
8. အူညာပြု (သားကြီးစိုက်)
6:00 am
9. Evening news
6:30 pm
10. Weather report
6:35 pm
11. ကြမ်းချောင် (သားကြီးစိုက်)
6:45 pm
12. The mirror images of the musical oldies
7:00 pm
13. ကြမ်းချောင် (သားကြီးစိုက်)
8:00 pm
14. News
8:40 pm
15. International news
9:00 pm
16. Weather report
17. ချောင်ချောင် (သားကြီးစိုက်)
18. The next day’s programme

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NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win today received Mr Liu Ping, Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province, the People’s Republic of China at the Prime Minister’s office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the call were Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General of Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing of Ministry of Forestry, Director-General of Mining Department U Than Myint of Ministry of Mines and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Bontalar Hydel Power Project in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Vice-Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col San Aung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the ministries, Chairman of Mindat District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Pe Thein and members attended the opening ceremony of multimedia classroom at No 2 Basic Education High School in Matupi on 21 July.

The commander, Chairman of Mindat District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Pe Thein and Chin State Joint Assistant Education Officer U Myint Swe formally opened the classroom.

Next, the commander and party inspected computer room, language lab, audio visual room, domestic science room, painting room and laboratory.

(see page 10)

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Vice-Governor Mr Liu Ping of Yunnan Province, PRC at Prime Minister’s Office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Bontalar Hydel Power Project in Matupi.

— MNA

At the ceremony, the Secretary-1 said, “The local people know best the evil consequences of armed insurgency in which they had lived in fear as their regions were lacking peace and stability, and were also suffering from a lot of hardships resulting from loss of lives and property and harassment and terrorism in the absence of the rule of law.”

YADANASI SAYADAW (LOILEM)